

## OBITUARY.

*James Andrew Kershaw, Director, National Museum of Victoria, 1929-1931.*

The passing of James Andrew Kershaw, Director of the National Museum of Victoria from 1929 to 1931, not only terminates the long association of the Kershaw family with science in Victoria, but breaks a link with such pioneers as Sir Frederick McCoy, Baron von Mueller, Dr. Alfred Howitt, and others who laid the foundations for modern scientific research in Australia.

James Kershaw was born on April 13, 1866, at Fitzroy, Victoria, educated at the Alma Road State School and the Grammar School, East Street, St. Kilda, and appointed to the staff of the National Museum by Sir Frederick McCoy on October 1, 1883. His father, William Kershaw, had been a member of the staff since 1856, when he and Henry Edwards, the well-known actor, were appointed as Lepidopterists. The period of young Kershaw's training coincided with the scientific revival of the closing decades of last century—a revival brought about by the publication by McCoy of his *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria*. That period might well be called the Taxonomic Period, for, during it, scientific work consisted chiefly of the description of genera and species.

After the death of McCoy in May 1899, the Museum was moved from the University grounds to its present site, and Sir W. Baldwin Spencer became its Honorary Director. He resigned in 1929, and James Kershaw then became Director. On his retirement in 1931, Kershaw was appointed Honorary Curator in Zoology, interesting himself in all matters connected with Zoology, and particularly in the groups of which he was a specialist. He retained this interest to the end—only a few minutes before he died on February 16, 1946, he had been discussing with one of the younger school a matter of common scientific interest.

He was keenly interested in the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, and his papers in its journal cover a wide range of subjects. He took a prominent part in securing the permanent reservation of Wilson's Promontory as a National Park and a sanctuary for the preservation of the native fauna and flora. He was Honorary Secretary to the Committee of Management continuously from its inception in 1908 to 1946. He became a member of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1900, a member of its Council in 1902, and



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